See regular file

Dear A.I., English

7/15/80

Enjoyed your note of the 11th and the long, p.1 story on the retirement of N.M. McDonald much.

Save for the fact that JFK was killed and Oswald was arrested there is virtually nothing accurate in his long account. His were phony heroics and if he had not been there it would have made no difference. He was hypped, it went to his head and he wound up believing it.

As for his modesty and Oswald's egomania, his word, the truth is that the McDonalds bludgeoned the Department of Justice and the President for him to be recognied as a national hero. I don't recall if they believedthis should include the Congressional medal of honor or a day named for him but there was firm insistance on his being invited to the White House. (Wasn't that more important than what took LBJ's time?)

Are all those other police dead? Bud Carroll? Gerald Hill? Many others? Only the two he names still alive?

While I agree that younger prople have grown soft, particularly about heat, and didn't pick cotton or hoe corn like you did in your youth, don't get carried away with it and take unnecessary chances at your age. You'll want to paint your house again in 5 years and maybe you'll do it again when it is o ver 90, but I've been cautioned and by and large I heed it. I mowed yesterday morning, on a steep hillside and in the sun, for an hour when it was 90, but not today - because of higher humidity. It is over 80 in the house and I've not turned the air conditioners on yet. Will, because the forecast is 93-97 and up to 100 tomorrow.

You mention N.O. and its warmth. I have a picture somewhere taken of me on a second-storey porch on a Sunday in December. It was so warm I was typing notes in nothing but shorts. Not quite the same as your 7/4/24 high of 53 in Paris, Tx, but then isn't Texas a thing unto itself?

My favorite heat story is of World War II and Africa. We'd be sent out to take charge of Nazi prisoners who were always late getter to the unshaded land that turned to sand in July. It did goet to as much as 120, and there were we, in the sun and in full uniform, with packs and weapons. We'd let water run on out shoes from a bag about 100 years away and by the time we walked that 100 yards the shoes were dry. But the nights got so cool I couldn't put enough on to keep from shivvering. In fact, when I got back to the States, in Northern N.J., where it does get cold, I'd feeze in long johns, under three blankets and a comforter in the bed closest to the pot-bellied stove. Took a year of more for me and the blood to adjust.

On McDonald again, I felt that what pressures they were applying were so outrageous, given what I knew of the actualities, I made copies of all of them and put them in a separate file for the future. Otherwise, they'd be last in the great mass. And for your information, that bullet he boasts about stopping with his thumb, the only that supposedly had been hit by the hammer, but not hard enough to set the cap off, has no such marks at all on it, according to the FBI.

Hope you get some relief soon. Too many old and poor people are dying. And I hope it is not at our expense because I'm better off when it is safe to exert myself.

Thanks and best wishes,

Dear A.I.,

7/15/80

Enjoyed your note of the 11th and the long, p.1 story on the retirement of N.M. McDonald much.

Save for the fact that JFK was killed and Oswald was arrested there is virtually nothing accurate in his long account. His were phony heroics and if he had not been there it would have made no difference. He was hypped, it went to his head and he wound up believing it.

As for his modesty and Oswald's egomania, his word, the truth is that the McDonalds bludgeoned the Department of Justice and the President for him to be recognied as a national hero. I don't recall if they believedthis should include the Congressional medal of honor or a day named for him but there was firm insistance on his being invited to the White House. (Wasn't that more inportant than what took LBJ's time?)

Are all those other police dead? Bud Carroll? Gerald Hill? Many others? Only the two he names still alive?

While I agree that younger people have grown soft, particularly about heat, and didn't pick cotton or hoe corn like you did in your youth, don't get carried away with it and take unnecessary chances at your age. You'll want to paint your house again in 5 years and maybe you'll do it again when it is o ver 90, but I've been cautioned and by and large I heed it. I mowed yesterday morning, on a steep hillside and in the sun, for an hour when it was 90, but not today - because of higher humidity. It is over 80 in the house and I've not turned the air conditioners on yet. Will, because the forecast is 93-97 and up to 100 tomorrow.

You mention N.O. and its warmth. I have a picture somewhere taken of me on a second-storey porch on a Sunday in December. It was so warm I was typing notes in nothing but shorts. Not quite the same as your 7/4/24 high of 53 in Paris, Tx, but then isn't Texas a thing unto itself?

My favorite heat story is of World War II and Africa. We'd be sent out to take charge of Nazi prisoners who were always late getter to the unshaded land that turned to sand in July. It did goet to as much as 120, and there were we, in the sun and in full uniform, with packs and weapons. We'd let water run on out shoes from a bag about 100 yeare away and by the time we walked that 100 yards the shoes were dry. But the nights got so cool I couldn't put enough on to keep from chivvering. In fact, when I got back to the States, in Northern N.J., where it does get cold, I'd freeze in long johns, under three blankets and a comforter in the bed closest to the pot-bellied stove. Took a year of more for me and the blood to adjust.

On McDonald again, I felt that what pressures they were applying were so outrageous, given what I knew of the actualities, I made copies of all of them and put them in a separate file for the future. Otherwise, they'd be lost in the great mass. And for your information, that bullet he boasts about stopping with his thumb, the only that supposedly had been hit by the hammer, but not hard enough to set the cap off, has no such marks at all on it, according to the FBI.

Hope you get some relief soon. Too many old and poor people are dying. And I hope it is not at our expense because I'm better off when it is safe to exert myself.

Thanks and best wishes,